

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for processing print requests sent to an image forming device, the system comprising:

print delay logic configured to delay processing of print requests until a selected print request is claimed from the image forming device by an owner of the selected print request;

an input device configured to receive a claim request from a user desiring to claim one or more print requests, the claim request including charge account information;

identification logic configured to identify one or more print requests for which the user is an owner based, at least in part, on the claim request, and configured to cause the identified one or more print requests to be processed; and

a payment logic configured to charge an account using the charge account information from the claim request.

2. The system of claim 1 where the input device includes a card reader configured to read identification data from an identification card provided by the user to claim one or more delayed print requests, the claim request being formed from the identification data.

3. The system of claim 2 where each print request includes an owner identification, and the identification logic being configured to compare the identification data provided by the user to the owner identification to determine a match.

4. The system of claim 1 where the claim request is configured to be received from a single data input.

5. The system of claim 1 where the claim request is configured to serve as both identifying information for print requests and charging information.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the input device includes a key pad configured to allow a user to input an identification code, the claim request being formed using at least the identification code.
7. The system of claim 6 where each print request includes an owner identification, and the identification logic being configured to compare the identification code provided by the user to the owner identification to determine a match.
8. The system of claim 1 where the system includes one of, an image forming device, and a computer system in communication with an image forming device.
9. The system of claim 1 further including a data store configured to maintain the print requests delayed by the print delay logic.
10. The system of claim 1 where the input device being configured to receive the claim request from the user being in a physical vicinity of the image forming device.
11. A computer-readable medium including processor executable instructions for processing print requests for an image forming device, the processor executable instructions being configured to perform a method comprising:
  - receiving a print request that includes an associated user identification;
  - delaying processing of the print request in the image forming device until claimed by a user;
  - in response to receiving claim data from a user in the presence of the image forming device, comparing the claim data with the user identification associated to the maintained print request;
  - processing the print request if the user identification matches the claim data;
  - and
  - charging an account using information from the claim data.

12. The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 11 where the claim data is received by an input device directly connected to the image forming device.

13. The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 11 further including maintaining received print requests in a queue where the received print requests are received from one or more sources and one or more users.

14. The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 11 where the charging step further includes automatically charging a user account for the claimed print request based on the user identification associated with the print request.

15. The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 14 where the user identification includes credit card information.

16. The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 14 further including instructions configured to perform a pre-authorization on the user account prior to processing the print request.

17. The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 11 where the user identification is configured as a sub-set of the claim data.

18. A method of processing print requests in an image forming device, the method comprising:

maintaining one or more pending print requests until physically claimed by a user, each print request being stored with an associated user identification;

in response to receiving user claim data physically inputted into the image forming device by a user in order to claim a pending print request, determining a claimed print request from the one or more pending print requests that belong to the user based on the user claim data;

selecting the claimed print request for processing into a printed copy; and

using the user claim data to charge a user account for processing the claimed print request.

19. The method as set forth in claim 18 further including displaying the print requests selected and allowing the user to initiate printing of one or more print requests displayed.

20. The method as set forth in claim 18 where the selecting includes activating a pending print request.

21. The method as set forth in claim 18 where determining includes comparing the associated user identification from the one or more print requests with the user claim data.

22. The method as set forth in claim 18 where the user claim data includes credit card information.

23. The method as set forth in claim 18 where the determining step includes determining all claimed print requests that belong to the user from the one or more pending print requests.

24. The method as set forth in claim 18 where the user claim data is received from a single data input from the user.

25. The method as set forth in claim 24 further including:  
determining a cost associated to processing the claimed print request;  
verifying the user account; and  
charging the user account based on the cost prior to processing the claimed print request.

26. An image forming device comprising:  
a data store configured to maintain print requests, each print request including owner information associated thereto;  
an input device configured to read a credit card provided by a user and to obtain credit card data from the credit card; and  
a print request processing means including:

print delay means for delaying processing of each of the print requests in the data store until claimed by an owner of the print request;

identification means for identifying which of the print requests in the data store are owned by the user by comparing the credit card data with the owner information associated with the print requests; and

payment means configured to charge the credit card read by the input device if one or more print requests are identified by the identification logic.

27. The image forming device as set forth in claim 26 further including a chain service configured to control the print request processing means.

28. The image forming device as set forth in claim 26 further including a chainwood server configured to control the print request processing means.

29. The image forming device as set forth in claim 26 further including a display configured to display the print requests identified as owned by the user.

30. The image forming device as set forth in claim 26 further including imaging logic configured to cause the image forming device to print the print requests identified by the identification means.

31. A print driver comprising:

logic configured to generate a print request based on a selected data desired to be printed; and

logic configured to obtain, from a user, owner identification data to be associated with the print request, the print request being configured to be maintained in a pending state in an image forming device until physically claimed by the user by providing a claim data to the image forming device that matches the owner identification data, the claim data including identification information to identify the print request and charging information to charge a user account for processing the print request.

32. A graphical user interface comprising:

logic configured to receive data representing one or more print requests that belong to a user that has claimed the one or more print requests by inputting claim data that matches owner identification data associated with the one or more print requests, the user being in the vicinity of an image forming device, and

logic configured to display the one or more print requests belonging to the user and allowing selection of the one or more print requests for processing onto a print media.